



# Emergency Preparedness

Phone: 515-281-5604

<http://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/preparedness>

Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



Mark Twain has been quoted as saying, "If you don't like the weather, just wait five minutes. It'll change." That old quote rings true here in the Hawkeye state with tornadoes, flooding, ice storms, and record heat and cold – sometimes all in the same week! The Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services (BETS) Emergency Preparedness Program works to protect the health of Iowans by preparing for these natural phenomena and other public health emergencies and disasters that disrupt health care systems and affect the health of Iowans.

BETS works with health care coalitions representing local public health departments and hospitals, and other federal, state, and local partners in Iowa to provide guidance, tools, and resources to help prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

No one can predict the next disaster, but BETS' work with local partners helps to enhance Iowans' ability to quickly return to normal when disaster strikes.

## Did you know?

BETS administers i-SERV, the Iowa Department of Public Health's secure online registry for individuals wishing to volunteer in the event of a large-scale disaster or public health emergency. As of October 1, 2016 there are 2,233 volunteers registered in i-SERV. i-SERV is part of a federal effort to coordinate and assemble volunteers for all types of emergencies. For more information, click the i-SERV link at <http://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/preparedness>.

## Why is emergency preparedness important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- Public health emergencies, from human threats such as terrorism, to natural disasters like floods and tornadoes, to disease outbreaks like pandemic flu, can affect all Iowans.
- Emergencies can happen at any time and anywhere. During such emergencies, public health and healthcare professionals are among the first responders.
- Coordinating communications, plans, and systems, helps make disaster response more effective at all levels of government.
- Coordinating scarce health resources in a disaster ensures the greatest needs are met for the most people possible with the available resources.

## Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Prepare for, respond to, & recover from emergencies

Prevent epidemics & the spread of disease

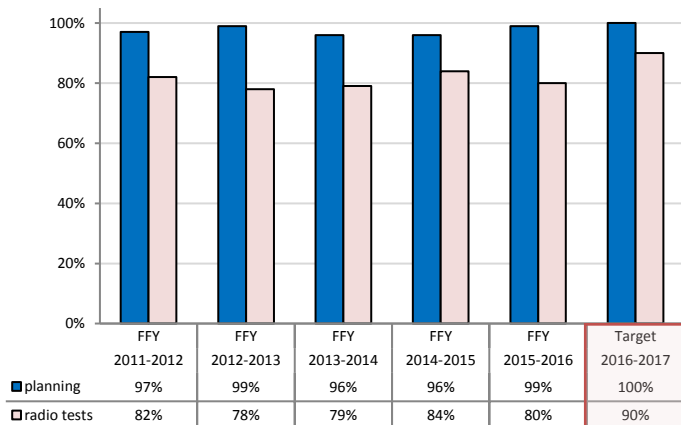
## What do we do?

Administer federal preparedness grants that allow us to:

- Enable a more coordinated response due to integration of public health and health care preparedness planning.
- Operate a communications system that links critical disaster response partners.
- Work to improve plans and processes to inform the public about disaster-related health risks and ways to be protected.
- Provide disaster planning and personal preparedness information to individuals and families in Iowa.
- Recruit and register medical volunteers to assist overwhelmed health care systems during an emergency.
- Recruit and maintain the Public Health Response Teams, which respond to disasters and relieve overwhelmed locals until other resources can arrive on scene.
- Maintain a stockpile of emergency medical countermeasures in the event of a large-scale disaster or infectious disease outbreak.

## How do we measure our progress?

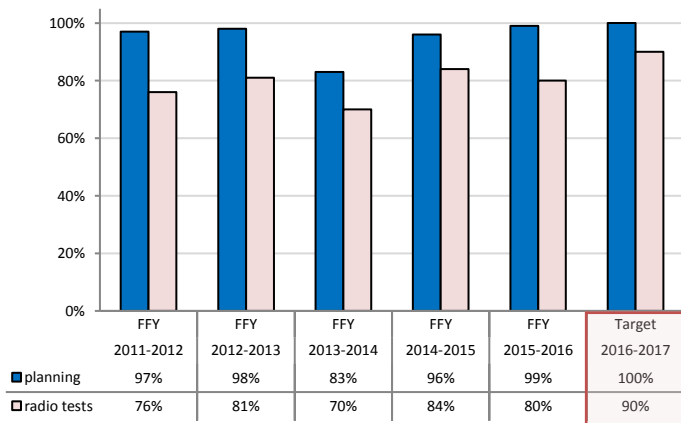
### 1 Percent of local public health agencies that complete preparedness activities.



Data Source: Reports from Local Public Health Agencies. Data are available annually. Radio test figures are from January through September 2016.

**How are we doing?** In FY2015-2016, Iowa's local public health agencies partnered with hospitals and other agencies to ensure their communities are prepared for a disaster. Agencies were asked to complete plans and respond to monthly radio checks to ensure redundant, interoperable communications in the event of an emergency.

### 2 Percent of hospitals that complete preparedness activities.



Data Source: Reports from Iowa Hospitals. Data are available annually. Radio test figures are from January through September 2016.

**How are we doing?** In FY2015-2016, Iowa's hospitals partnered with local public health agencies and other agencies to ensure their communities are prepared for a disaster. Hospitals were asked to complete plans and respond to monthly radio checks to ensure redundant, interoperable communications in the event of an emergency.

## What can Iowans do to help?

1. Create a family disaster plan and family disaster kit. Review the plan at least once a year. For help creating a disaster plan and more information on what should be included in the kit, go to [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit).
2. Become involved with public health and hospital volunteer programs in your community to assist in exercises and actual incidents.
3. Healthcare and public health professionals should remain vigilant with emerging infectious diseases that pose a threat to the public's health.

## Expenditures

**Antiviral Program:** general fund (Executive Council – Iowa Code 7D.29): K19-1938. **Hospital Preparedness:** federal funds: 0153-1934; Ebola 1956-EB20. **Public Health Preparedness:** federal funds: 0153-1932; Ebola Phase 2: 1932-EPR6.

	State Fiscal Year 2015 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Estimate
State funds	\$57,663	\$73,315	\$75,375
Federal funds	\$8,980,506	\$8,782,315	\$11,044,560
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$9,038,169</b>	<b>\$8,855,630</b>	<b>\$11,119,935</b>
FTEs	17.59	16.96	17.00

**Note:** Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.